

Title of Session: e-Portfolios
Moderator: Lynne Wolters
Title of File: 20090319eportfolio
Date: March 19, 2009

Room: e-Portfolio Group

LynneW: I'm so glad you are here. You are most welcome.

PeterK: I am an EdTec grad student at San Diego State.

LynneW: Peter - I see your interest is math but don't know grade level

LynneW: A couple of tips for making the session more enjoyable.

PeterK: Leaning toward 9-12, but in this economy gotta be open to other possibilities.

LynneW nods to Peter

LynneW: We have two frames we are working in - the top is our group room and its resources.

LynneW: The lower is the chat module.

LynneW: As BJ indicated, you can detach the chat module for a larger visual space = less scrolling.

MichaelaKo: good idea, will do

LynneW: The ACTIONS menu is in the upper right corner of this chat module.

LynneW: Once you have done that, go back to the ACTIONS menu and select LARGER TEXT

LynneW: This will save your eyes!

LauraMC: thank you

LynneW: Sure

MichaelaKo: thank you, much easier to see

LynneW: Please chime in "ok" when you are ready.

MichaelaKo: ok

CarrieW: ok

PeterK: ok

ErikaRB: ok

JessicaS: ok

AdrianC: ok

LauraMC: ok

JeffC joined the room.

LynneW waves to Jeff

JeffC waves

LynneW: My name is Lynne Wolters. I am an experienced ed tech teacher educator.

LilyC: ok

LynneW: I come to you from Vancouver, WA.

LynneW: And, I am the "group mom" or facilitator.

LynneW: BJ is the Tapped In "mom of all things"

JeffC: I'm Jeff Cooper, also experienced with ed tech, and a lifelong class clown. I'm in Forest Grove Oregon (and also on Helpdesk here).

LynneW: Please introduce yourselves.

LynneW: Where you live, what grade level, content area you wish to teach

LynneW: No particular order - just chime in.

MichaelaKo: Michaela, pre-service middle school science teacher from Houston

LauraMC: I am in my fifth year at the University of Houston. I am student teaching in pre-k right now. Currently I am in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania spending time with my family for spring break =>

AdrianC: My name is Adrian, I am a preservice teacher from the University of Houston and my grade level is 4-8 Social Studies

JessicaS: Hi I'm from Houston TX, pre-service elem teacher... interested in prek-2

LynneW: Is that everyone?

ErikaRB: Houston, EC- 12 Art, hoping for middle school

PeterK: Interested in supporting teachers, using tech to teach math

LilyC: My name is Lily, living in Houston and student teaching in Houston (Spring ISD), major is in grades 4-8, science, but mentoring in a 7th grade science class

CarrieW: Houston, TX, Senior at the University of Houston. Doing my student teaching in k and 4th

LynneW: Wonderful - as a group you cover the K-12 spectrum.

LynneW: This session is meant to be a professional development session about e-portfolios in education.

LynneW: My question to each of you -- what do you want to learn?

LynneW: What are your goals for this session?

LynneW: Were you assigned to attend a TI session?

LynneW: If so, what do you need to accomplish your class requirement?

LynneW: Anyone - chime in.

ErikaRB: understanding what information to have on my e-portfolio

LauraMC: Yes, it is a requirement to attend 2 TI sessions, but I thought hearing about e-portfolios

CarrieW: I am currently creating an electronic hiring portfolio

LilyC: What exactly should we include in our e-portfolios and what do most people look for in an e-portfolio when they are hiring?

MichaelaKo: How to best construct an e-portfolio and learn about the advantages of having one.

PeterK: Part of assignment, interested in learning what questions to ask.

LynneW: Great - you each have a vested interest in this content.

JessicaS: hoping to see examples

LynneW: OK

AdrianC: I want to expand my knowledge of eportfolios and how to make them more effective

LynneW: I want to start with a basic statement of my belief about e-portfolios.

LynneW: I have assigned them for my student teachers for years.

LynneW: I have also polled K-12 district personnel mgrs about them for hiring purposes

LynneW: I will be happy to share this info with you.

LynneW: An effective e-portfolio must be exceptionally well planned and executed.

LynneW: Think of a resume -- you know not to have any mistakes of any kind on it right?

LilyC: Right

MichaelaKo: correct

AdrianC: yes

LynneW: The same is true about your e-portfolio.

LynneW: You tailor your resume to the desired outcome and audience.

LynneW: The same is true for your e-portfolio

LauraMC: what is important to include?

LynneW: An e-portfolio is not a scrapbook for everything you have completed.

LauraMC: I feel like I have so much stuff in my e-portfolio

LynneW: You carefully and purposefully select each artifact to help tell a focused story.

LauraMC: Everything I have included has been required for a grade, but I feel like it's now too much for an employer to look through

LynneW: Each artifact must stand on its own but it also must move flawlessly in concert with the portfolio as a whole.

LynneW: Laura, you are correct.

LynneW: Everyone will know you had to complete a lesson plan, etc. to complete your educational objectives.

LynneW: Sticking a lesson plan on a portfolio can be pro forma or an awesome highlight.

LynneW: How you plan and execute is critical.

LynneW: Does that make sense?

ErikaRB: yes

LauraMC: Yes.

MichaelaKo: yes

JessicaS: yes

LilyC: Very much so

AdrianC: Yes very much

PeterK: yes

LauraMC: So pick the best lesson plans you have written and include those.

LynneW: E-portfolios are not always used in the hiring process.

CarrieW: yes

LynneW: You need to know the process of the district(s) you are applying to very well to make this work.

LynneW: Do you include it to personnel?

LynneW: Is it on CD/DVD

LynneW: Is it online and password protected or not?

CarrieW: I placed me URL on my resume

LynneW: Is it web pages or .pdf documents or a slideshow???

MichaelaKo: I do too

LauraMC: I did the same, Carrie

LynneW: Do you give the information to the interview team?

LynneW: Or the building principal??

MichaelaKo: good questions

LynneW: Who will look at it? What will they see?

LynneW: Will they be able to navigate easily and will you give them LOTS of value for the time and effort they put into looking?

LynneW: No one will look through pages of college coursework.

LilyC: good question

LynneW: Will the key individuals even be computer literate and comfortable reviewing an e-portfolio?

LynneW: Will they know what an e-portfolio is and how they can use it?

MichaelaKo: it is easier to navigate on a website then in a hard copy

JeffC . o O (things sure have changed since I did my application in crayon)

ErikaRB: LOL

LynneW: You must begin by thinking about your intended audience.

LynneW: Then you must decide how to best tell your story.

LynneW: So, what is your story?

LauraMC: You said not all districts will review e-portfolios... would you say the majority does, or does not?

LynneW: What will differentiate you from your competition for the teaching position?

LynneW: Laura, it is very spotty.

LynneW: Varies from state to state.

LauraMC: Okay

LynneW: Texas has had a strong focus on ed tech for many years.

CarrieW: I heard once it comes down to 3-4 teachers, principals might start looking at the online portfolios

LauraMC: It's just in college we are encouraged and told that EVERY school views it, but in reality, I've never heard of any district actually looking at it.

MichaelaKo: rule of thumb is have one made anyways

JessicaS: well, Univ of Houston requires an eportfolio and a separate hiring portfolio I think

LynneW: The challenge has been the cadre of administrators who are not as comfortable with ed tech but value it in their teachers.

LauraMC: Oh, okay. Thank you Lynne and Carrie

LauraMC: Yes Jessica, UH does. I just put together my hard copy portfolio. took me DAYS to complete it

LynneW: There is great value in planning and creating an e-portfolio.

CarrieW: hard copy, for what Laura?

LauraMC: Quest 3

LynneW sidebar

LynneW: You can have private comments by clicking on an individual's name

LauraMC: I'm sorry. My bad.

LynneW: Not a slap down - just information.

LauraMC: okay thank you

LynneW: So, back to the story.

JeffC . o O (double clicking a name in the "Here" or "Online" tab will open a private chat box with that person)

LynneW: You need to review the tools at hand and decide what your strengths are and how to pair them with the tech to tell your story.

LynneW thanks Jeff for the backup as always

LynneW: Perhaps a short video segment showing you working with an autistic child mainstreamed within a lesson you planned would serve as powerful evidence of your teaching skill.

LauraMC: oooh, I like that idea

MichaelaKo: or photos

LynneW: Perhaps you want to create an audio file that is a reflection on a particularly difficult or challenging day in the classroom.

LynneW: Said in your own voice and words is VERY powerful.

LilyC: But you would have to get parents' permission for having the child in your video/pictures, right?

AdrianC: that's a great idea

LynneW: Lily, depends on the arrangements as district policy.

MichaelaKo: Or a written document on a reflection of that difficult day?

LilyC: oh I see

LynneW: Some districts have a general permission signed at the beginning of each year.

LynneW: Some teachers want to have very specific use permissions signed when student teachers are taking images.

MichaelaKo: it is a good idea to research the districts you are interested in

LynneW: You will have to check it out where you are.

LilyC: Oh, I see. Because from what my mentor told me, I couldn't videotape the kids due to legal reasons.

LynneW: Be sensitive to having a child's name and picture online.

LilyC: Okay, sounds good.

LauraMC: I know with photos I took (because UH requires photo documentation to prove you taught your lessons) I blacked out/blurred the students faces.

LauraMC: I was told that was okay. You might want to check and see if you are allowed

to do that

LynneW: Videotape is done all the time - but there are requirements to observe.

CarrieW: Can you password protect teaching videos Lynne?

LilyC: Ohh

LynneW: Carrie - there are ways to do so.

LynneW: So let's go back to choosing artifacts to share in a hiring portfolio.

MichaelaKo: resume

LynneW: This is a very personal expression of your mission to teach.

JessicaS: philosophy of education?

LynneW: How it looks, colors, type face, white space (open space) in page layout, composition of the piece gives an instant impression.

LynneW: You can write a philosophy of education statement.

LynneW: Everyone knows it is required and it is usually pro forma.

AdrianC: How much writing should we have?

SusanR joined the room.

LynneW: HOWEVER....

JessicaS: should we include letters of recommendations?

LynneW waves to Sue

SusanR waves hi

LynneW: if you used a very special image with a poem or personal insightful statement....

LynneW: you have demonstrated visual literacy as a powerful communication tool.

LilyC: Oh good idea

JeffC recommends <http://www.ourmedia.org> ...free... and you can hide your videos/channels.

LynneW: At the same time, you have demonstrated your knowledge blended with desire and insight into the art, technology, and practice of teaching.

LynneW: You don't have to drown your audience in documents to communicate what they need.

LynneW: Are you beginning to see this type of approach to your e-portfolios?

LynneW: What do you think?

LauraMC: Yes.

LauraMC: Here is my question.

LynneW: Please ask Laura

AdrianC: yes

JessicaS: yes, be very selective in the content

ErikaRB: yes, clearing up a lot of questions

MichaelaKo: yes, sound great

LilyC: Yes

LauraMC: For school, we have certain requirements to meet. Quest 1, Quest 2, Quest 3 requirements... I have all that included in my portfolio and have a link to a "hiring portfolio"

LauraMC: Should I be deleting the school requirement stuff and only having a "hiring" portfolio section?

LauraMC: I am not sure if that made sense

LynneW: Just give the link that is your hiring portfolio.

LauraMC:

http://mariner.coe.uh.edu/~lciocca/hiring_portfolio/hiring_portfolio_main_page.html

LynneW: Be sure it can be easily navigated as its own website.

LauraMC: oh. hah. I thought you wanted the link.

LauraMC: I understand what you mean. Thanks

LynneW: Sure

LynneW: I know you really want a list of documents to include.

LynneW: Each of you will have different approaches as a reflection of your own self.

LynneW: Include full name, contact information including email address.

LynneW: MAKE SURE your email address is not a silly one.

LynneW: Or, a suggestive one.

MichaelaKo: not a good impression

LynneW: Get a new email address just for hiring purposes.

AdrianC: oh that's a great idea

LynneW: Mine is LynneWolters@gmail.com

LynneW: Make sure your phone message is professional and thoughtful.

JeffC: couple of comments for Laura: 1. Don't link to Word documents that are .docx ...many won't have the latest version of Word and won't be able to open them. 2. Best to hyperlink to other web documents rather than Word docs anyway... you can hand the m hard copies of the Word doc. 3. Switch the alignment to left rather than centered (more professional). 4. Get rid of the blue links (not enough contrast with the black.

LynneW: Not long or filled with music.

LilyC: Good ideas, thanks.

LauraMC thanks Jeff. I have to redo my hiring page... the system crashed and it's all I could do. Thank you

LynneW: If you have myspace or facebook pages, make sure there are no drinking/party pictures.

JeffC . o O (unless you want to sell yourself as a hard drinking gonzo educator)

LynneW: No statements that put anyone down

JeffC . o O (not even Bush?)

SusanR . o O (I will have to check my facebook page)

LynneW gives a severe look to Jeff

JeffC runs and hides under his virtual desk.

SusanR . o O (wonders about using Twitter)

JessicaS: haha...

ErikaRB: What if you don't even have one or really don't use it

LynneW: Sue - use Twitter in what way?

LynneW: One what Erika?

ErikaRB: facebook or myspace

LynneW: That is just fine.

ErikaRB: ok

AdrianC: Could those network pages help us in any way?

LynneW: You don't have to have that type of presence. Hiring managers are looking at myspace and facebook and making decision based upon what they see.

JeffC: I know time is running short, and the focus of this session has been on professional eportfolios... but I wanted to throw in something about using them for students. Personally... I think it's the wave of the future... even starting at the K level... however... due to the current politics of NCLB, I really don't see much of an effort to portfolio assessment in school districts... hardly anyone goes this route, and it's a shame.

MichaelaKo: just show good character

ErikaRB: yes, some teachers get together to talk about lessons and ideas

LynneW: YES Michael and Jeff

MichaelaKo: they would want to know what kind of person they would be hiring

LynneW final comments

LynneW: Storyboard what you want your e-portfolio to say.

LynneW: Look at your documents and create meaningful and intentional artifacts.

CarrieW: Lynne, how can I add a video to my E-Portfolio page?

LynneW: Put them into file formats that are platform neutral.

LynneW: Program neutral if you can.

CarrieW: Wow, I have no idea what you are talking about~

LynneW: Do you know what I mean about platform and program neutral?

CarrieW: Maybe we could chat after the session?

LynneW: For a short time Carrie. You are all invited to attend my 5:00pm PDT session on Web 2.0 Tools for Schools.

LynneW: I'm actually featuring some free online tools you can each use.

LynneW: in the Web 2.0 Tools for Schools group room.

LauraMC: Great. Thank you

LynneW: Please feel free to email me at cupdxprof@gmail.com if you want to connect or get feedback

LynneW: Last few minutes for questions.

LynneW: As Jeff indicated, there is great power and learning in using e-portfolios as authentic means of assessment for your students.

LilyC: What is the most important thing in an e-portfolio hiring professionals/ or go to first?

LynneW: Google Dr. Helen Barrett to see how e-portfolios can be used in classroom instruction.

LauraMC: I really like this portfolio for students idea!

LynneW: Say there are two candidates that are nearly even in their scoring and impressions in the interview(S)

LynneW: An eportfolio is the place to differentiate yourself.

MichaelaKo: It is the extra push, that you will be thankful is there

LynneW: Give you that extra push that makes it easy for the hiring mgr to say "yes" to you.

LynneW: Think about what the district needs. What are their new initiatives?

LilyC: Do you suggest us using fonts like Times New Roman and Arial?

LynneW: Does that pair up well with your own expertise and interest.

LynneW: As a rule - use san serif fonts for on screen viewing.

MichaelaKo: Needs to look professional, so don't make it look too cute

LynneW: Arial, Helvetica, Tahoma

LilyC: Okay

ErikaRB: Should you use the universities viking or create one on a free webspace

LynneW: Hard copy is fine in serif fonts like Times New Roman

LynneW: Erika, depends on how long you have access to your eportfolio.

MichaelaKo: Is it a great idea to give them a hard copy and a url?

LynneW: You may need to be a sub for a year.

LynneW: Will your portfolio still be available for someone to review?

LauraMC: I never thought of that... mine's on Mariner, Erika

LynneW: I'm not a fan of hard copy material - why have an eportfolio if you are giving it out as hard copy.

LynneW: But then, my classes are paperless.

LynneW: My bias.

LynneW: Of course, there will be hard copies of your resume and teaching certificate, etc. at interview time.

Lynne W: The district will provide that to your committee.

LynneW: Have a copy with you to refer to or for quick copies if needed.

MichaelaKo: then I'll just offer the hard-copy if they request it, but nowadays everyone has access to the internet and should be able to look at it online

LynneW: I think that is a reasonable approach.

LynneW: Think of a professional but enticing way to tease them into taking the time to look at your eportfolio

LynneW: Could be the next to last thing you say.

LynneW: What is the last thing you say??

LynneW: In your interviews?

LilyC: Thank you for your time?

LynneW: YES

LauraMC: Thank you

MichaelaKo: It has been a pleasure to have this interview with you, hope to see you soon.

LynneW: And, a simple clear statement of your desire to teach in their district/building.

LilyC: A statement - great idea

LynneW: Know why a particular teaching assignment is a good match for you.

LynneW: Not just that any job is a job to keep you alive and paying on your student loans (smile)

LynneW: Even if that is your truth.

LynneW: (chuckle)

LynneW: This has been a lovely session and you have been patient with me.

JeffC: btw... since we're on the subject of teacher resumes... I strongly recommend that all new teachers here register at <http://www.edzapp.com> and <http://www.Teachers-Teachers.com>

JessicaS: thank you!

LauraMC: Thank you

AdrianC: Thanks

MichaelaKo: thank you for this wonderful session

JeffC: you will be guided through the portfolio process there... and... it's basically the route to go for looking for teaching jobs online.

LauraMC: Great. Thanks Jeff

LynneW: Good luck to each of you. Please consider coming back.

JeffC: both of those sites are used heavily by school districts in looking for new hires.

ErikaRB: Thank you for the great info

MichaelaKo: thank you Jeff, I will take advantage of it

BJB2: Thanks, Lynne. Lynne leads this discussion once a month...come back and let us know how you're doing!

LynneW: If you want to join this special interest group - Jeff can tell you how.

LauraMC: Will do. Thanks again!

LilyC: Thanks a lot Lynne! and Jeff!

PeterK: Thank you so much for a wonderfully informative session.

BJB2: Lynne also is leading the Web 2.0 discussion at the hour

CarrieW: Thanks Lynne, I think I've got what I'm looking for

JeffC: To join this group, scroll down the top frame and at the end of the Welcome box, click the little "i" in the green circle, then click the link to "join this group."

LynneW waves good-bye